

Statement of Congressman Ron Kind
H.R. 1036
Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1036, THE PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT.

GUN MANUFACTURERS AND SELLERS SHOULD NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR THE CRIMINAL MISUSE OF THEIR PRODUCTS. WHILE MOST LAWSUITS BROUGHT AGAINST SUCH PARTIES ARE USUALLY FRIVOLOUS AND HAVE HAD LITTLE SUCCESS IN COURT, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED ON THEM IS ENORMOUS. IMPOSING LIABILITY ON AN ENTIRE INDUSTRY, BASED SOLELY ON THE UNLAWFUL ACTIONS OF OTHERS IS AN ABUSE OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM, ERODES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OUR NATION'S LAWS, AND THREATENS THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF LAW-ABIDING COMPANIES.

MR. SPEAKER, THE MAJORITY OF GUN MANUFACTURERS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES, SOME OF THEM FAMILY OWNED FOR GENERATIONS. SOME OF THESE BUSINESSES HAVE A STORIED HISTORY OF SUPPLYING OUR ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WITH QUALITY FIREARMS. THESE MANUFACTURERS HAVE EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORDS AND ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFE USE OF THESE WEAPONS.

MR. SPEAKER, AS AN AVID HUNTER AND SPORTSMAN, I AM OPPOSED TO ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREVENT LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS FROM OWNING A

GUN. HOWEVER, AS A FORMER LOCAL PROSECUTOR, I HAVE ALSO DEALT WITH THE EFFECTS OF GUN VIOLENCE FIRST-HAND. I AM CONVINCED, THEREFORE, THAT FIREARMS SHOULD NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF CONVICTED FELONS AND OTHERS UNFIT TO POSSESS DEADLY WEAPONS. SOCIETY MUST PROSECUTE THOSE WHO USE A FIREARM FOR MALICIOUS PURPOSES, NOT THE MANUFACTURERS WHO BUILD A QUALITY PRODUCT AND HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE BEHAVIOR OF USERS.

I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.